



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
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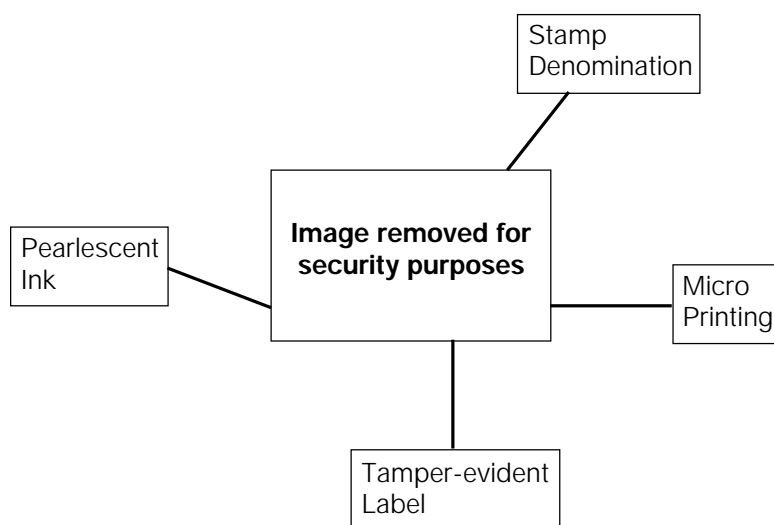
RAMON J. HIRSIG  
Executive Director

## California Tobacco Retailers, Wholesalers, and Manufacturers Important Notice California to Introduce New Cigarette Tax Stamp by January 1, 2005

Senate Bill 1701, enacted in 2002, requires the Board of Equalization (BOE) to replace the current cigarette tax stamp with a technology-based, counterfeit-resistant stamp by January 1, 2005.

BOE has selected a vendor, SICPA, to provide this new cigarette tax stamp. The new stamp will look like the image below<sup>a</sup> very different from stamps used in the past. Cigarette retailers, wholesalers, and manufacturers will be able to purchase a scanner to authenticate the new stamp.

We will send you more information on the new stamp before January 1. If you have questions regarding the new stamp, please call the Excise Taxes and Fees Division at 800-400-7115 (TDD/TTY 800-735-2929). Select the "Timber, Property Tax and Other Taxes" option, and then select "Cigarette and Alcohol Taxes." Staff are available to help you weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except state holidays. If you have information regarding tobacco tax evasion, please call 888-334-3300. In addition, if you have questions about purchasing scanning devices, you may call Stephen Wass, SICPA Project Management Director, at 703-440-7766.



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